

# State-Waters Pacific Cod Fishery and Proposal Overview

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

**October 27-28, 2022**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

Staff comments: RC 2



# Fishery Terms

- NPFMC = North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
- ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch
- TAC = Total Allowable Catch (Federal catch limit)
- GHF = Guideline Harvest Level (State-waters catch limit)
- Sectors = Different gear types or processing capabilities used to allocate federal/parallel TAC
- CDQ = Community Development Quota
- LLP = License Limitation Program (equivalent to state's limited entry program)
- FFP = Federal Fisheries Permit
- SSL = Steller Sea Lion
- VMS = Vessel Monitoring System
- BS = Bering Sea
- AI = Aleutian Islands
- GOA = Gulf of Alaska
- CF = Confidential Data

# Fishery Terms - Jurisdiction

- **Federal Waters** = Waters from 3-200 nmi offshore under federal management jurisdiction

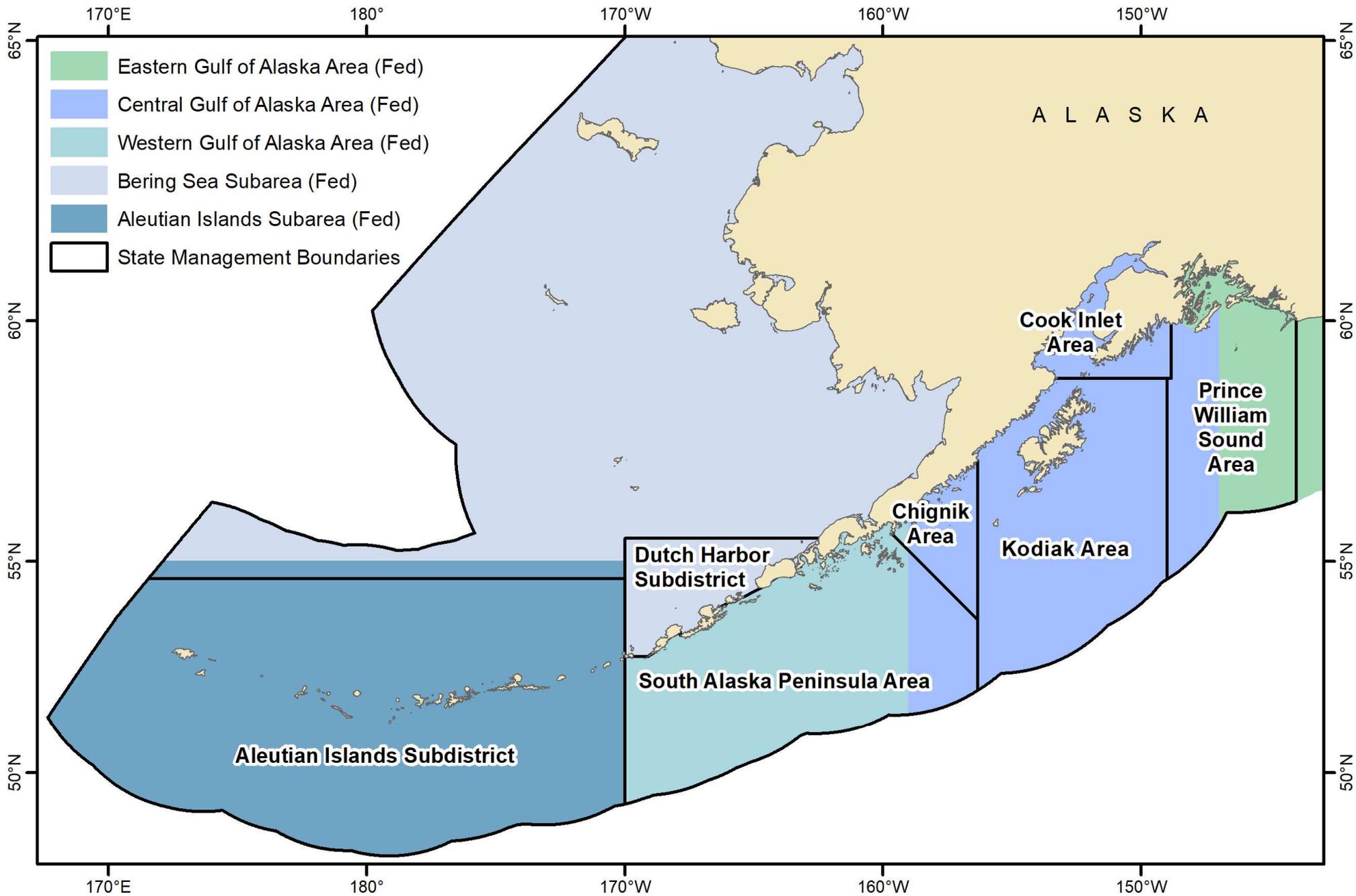
## Federal Groundfish Management Areas (5)

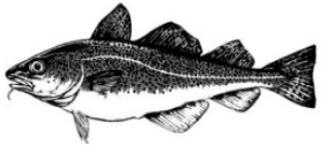
- EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska
- CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska
- WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska
- BS = Bering Sea
- AI = Aleutian Islands

- **State Waters** = Waters from 0-3 nmi offshore under state management jurisdiction

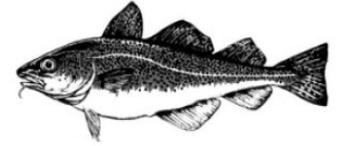
## State Groundfish Management Areas (8)

- Eastern Gulf of Alaska (Southeast Alaska)
- Prince William Sound
- Cook Inlet
- Kodiak
- Chignik
- South Alaska Peninsula
- Dutch Harbor Subdistrict
- Aleutian Islands Subdistrict





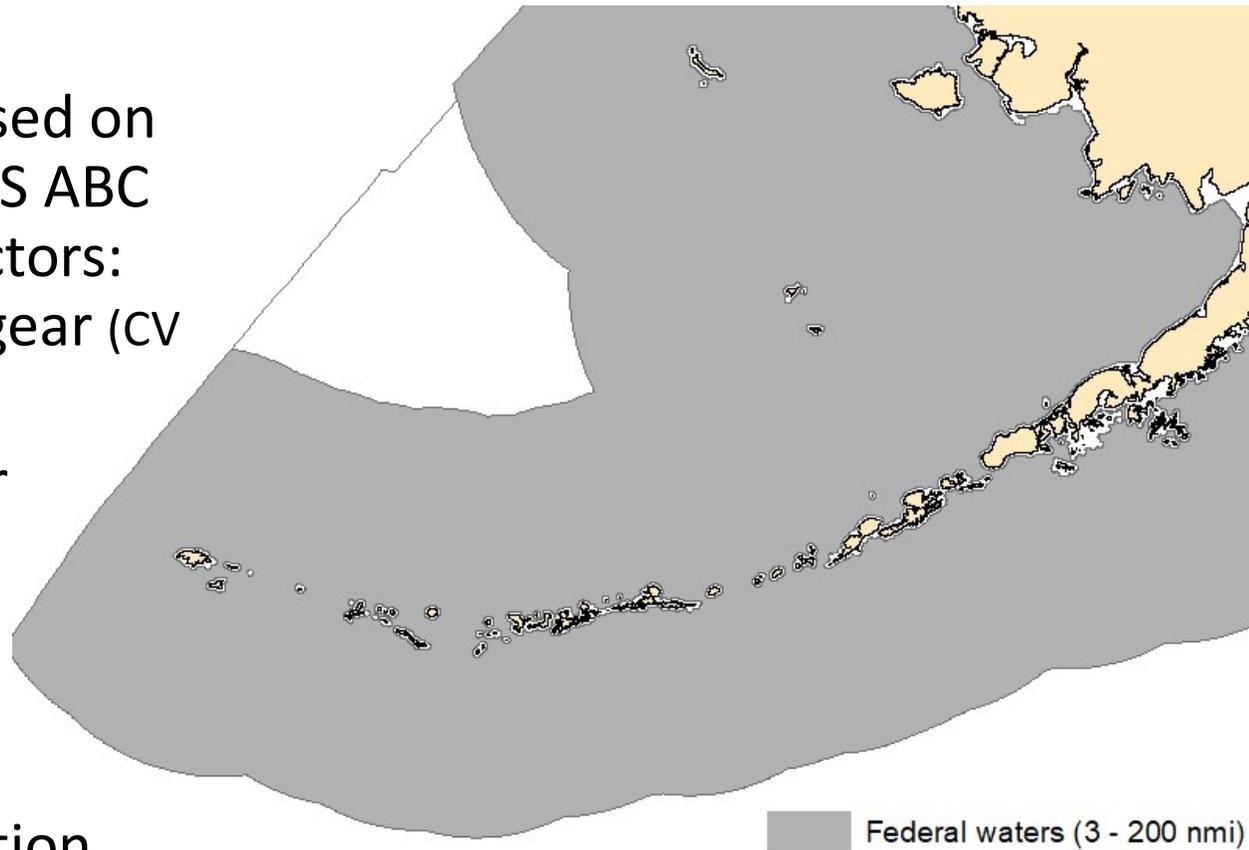
# Alaska Pacific Cod Fisheries



- **Federal:** Federal waters (3-200 nmi) guided by NPFMC process. Harvest deducted from federal TAC.
- **Parallel:** State waters (0-3 nmi) concurrent with adjacent federal fishery and generally adopt federal regulations and management measures as guided by the board process. Harvest deducted from federal TAC.
- **State-waters (GHL):** State waters (0-3 nmi) guided by the board process. Harvest deducted from state GHL.

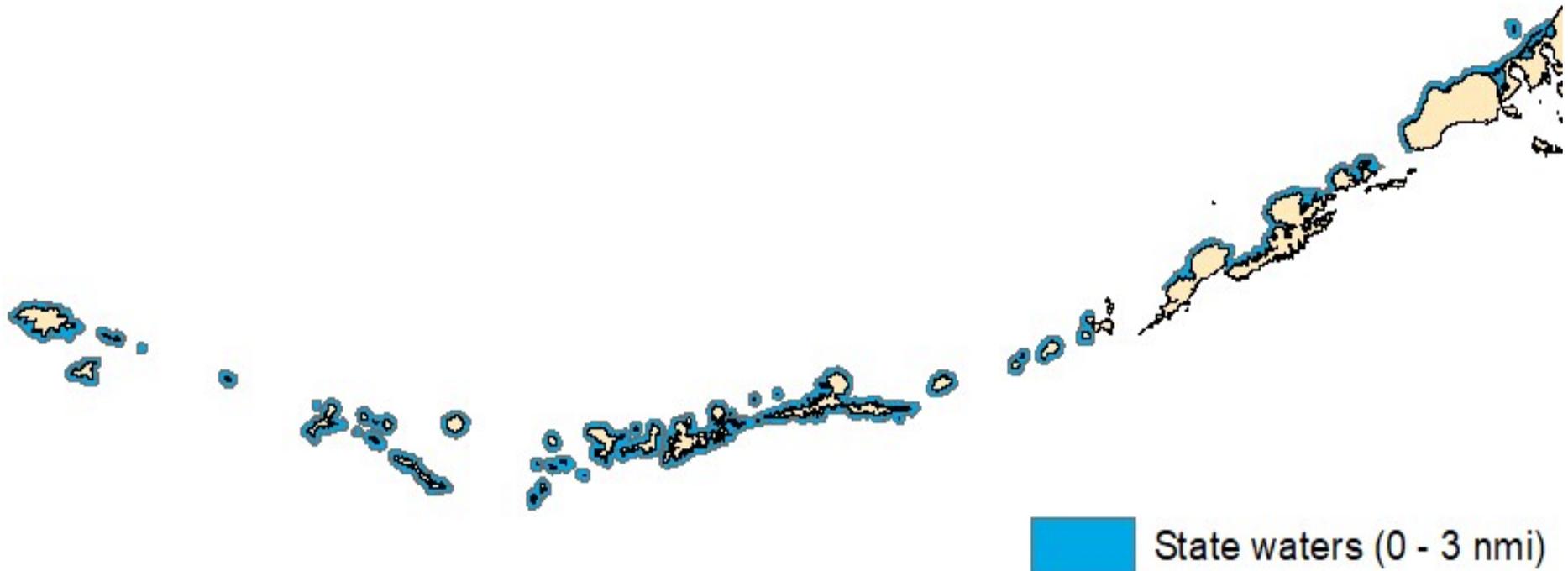
# BSAI Area Federal Pacific Cod Fisheries

- Federal waters 3 – 200 nmi
- 2022 harvest limit (TAC) based on 89% of federal Pacific cod BS ABC and 67% of AI ABC Gear sectors: trawl, longline, pot and jig gear (CV and CP)
- Most sectors operate under multiple seasons
- No gear limits
- Limited access/rationalized
- Steller sea lion (SSL) protection measures
- Observer requirements



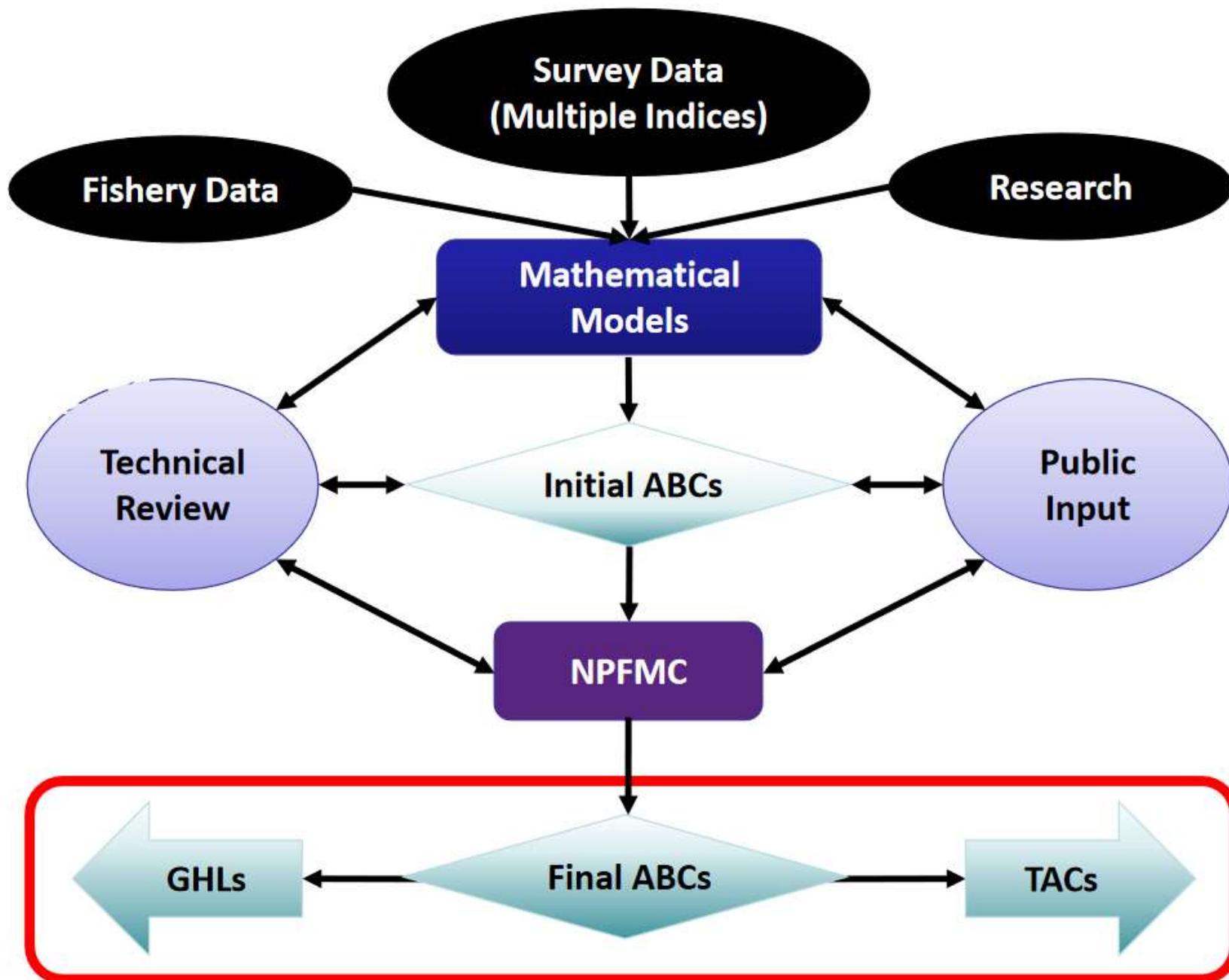
# BSAI Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Fisheries

- State waters 0 - 3 nmi
- Harvest limits (GHL) based on a percentage of federal Pacific cod ABCs
- Most seasons open after federal/parallel fisheries close
- Gear varies by fishery
- Open access – exclusive registration
- Follow some SSL protection measures
- No observer requirements



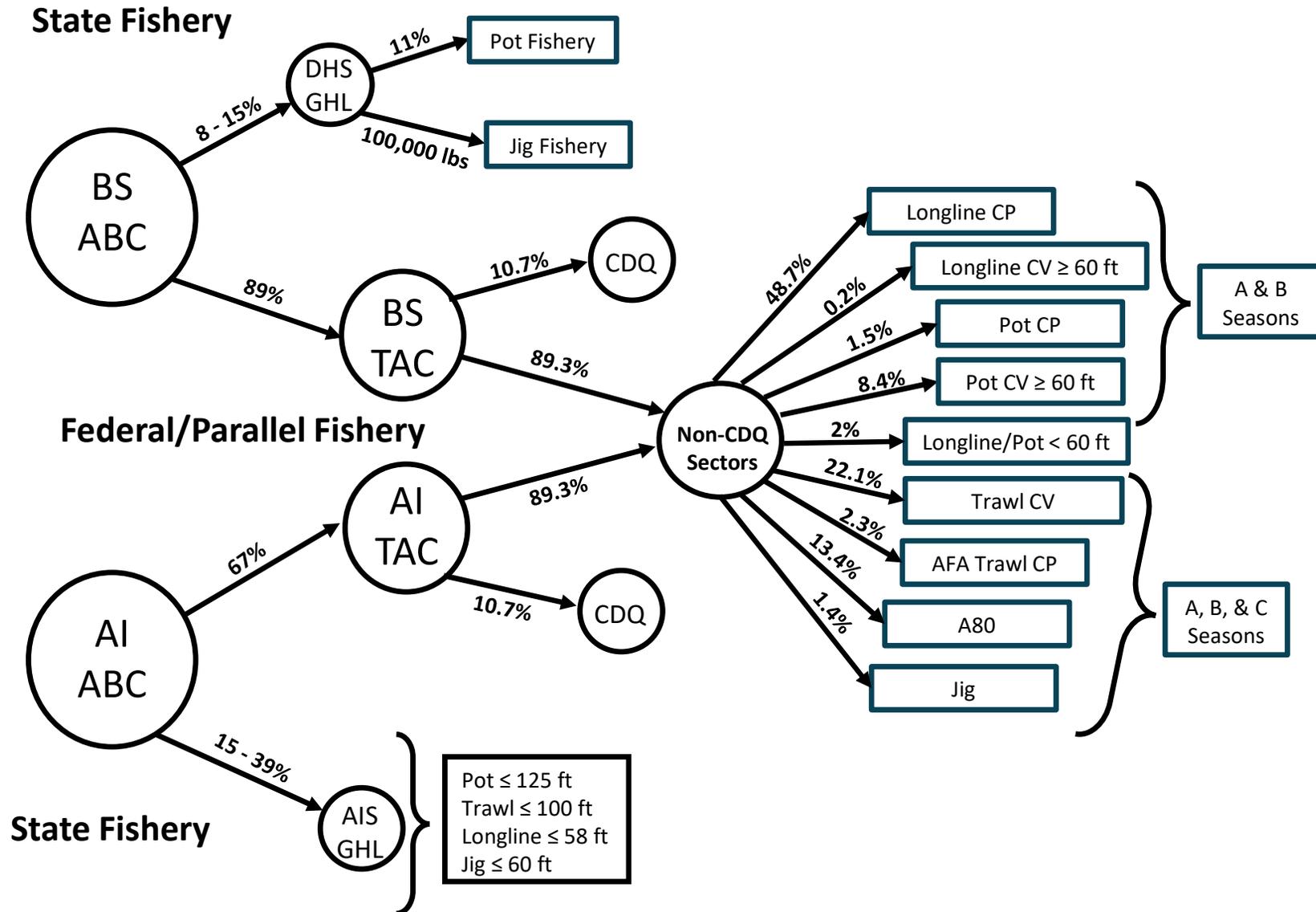
# Pacific Cod Stock Assessment Process

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# BSAI Catch Allocation

- ABC – Acceptable Biological Catch (Federal: EGOA, CGOA, WGOA, BS, AI)
- TAC – Total Allowable Catch (Federal/Parallel Fisheries)
- GHL – Guideline Harvest Level (State-Waters Fisheries)



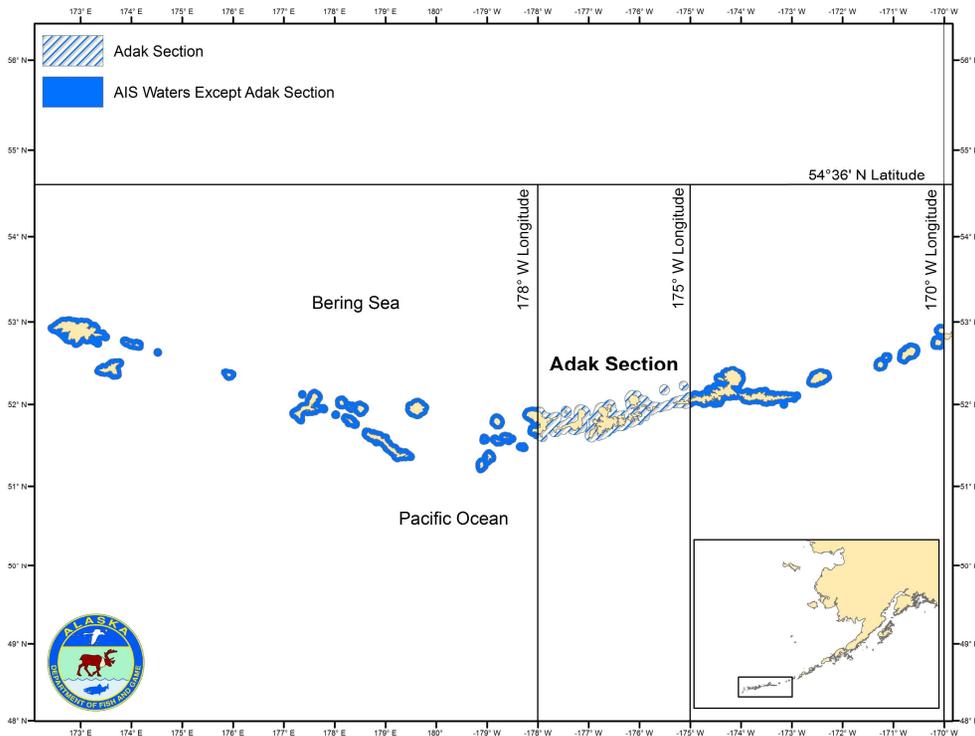
# 2022 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod Meeting Proposals (11)

- Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Fishery Pacific cod – 4 proposals
  - **Proposal 1:** Regulation clarifications
  - **Proposal 2:** Repeal and replace AIS Pacific cod management plan
  - **Proposals 3 & 4:** Season dates for large trawl vessels
- Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod Fishery – 2 proposals
  - **Proposal 5:** Vessel size restrictions near Unalaska Bay
  - **Proposal 6:** Abundance-based GHL calculation
- Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands General Regulations – 1 proposal
  - **Proposal 7:** Gear marking and landing requirements
- South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod Fishery – 1 proposal
  - **Proposal 8:** Weather delay provision
- Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Jig Gear Registration and Season Dates – 1 proposal
  - **Proposal 9:** Remove vessel registration exclusivity for state-waters jig gear fisheries and open state-waters Pacific cod seasons for jig gear on January 1
- Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery – 1 proposal
  - **Proposal 10:** Define GHL calculation
- Policy – 1 proposal
  - **Proposal 161:** Create and establish BOF policy on management of groundfish fishery resources in water of Alaska

# Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS)

- Promote opportunity for <60 ft vessels that deliver to local shore-based processors
- Acknowledge historical fishery participants and reduce likelihood of stranding AI GHL/ABC

- Fishery began 2006
- GHL = up to 39% federal AI ABC
  - Increases 4% each year if previous GHL achieved (max 39%)
  - If GHL is not achieved two consecutive years GHL decreases 4% to a min of 15%
  - 15 million lb maximum GHL limit
  - Not allocated between gear types
- Exclusive registration area
- Legal gear
  - Pot, trawl, jig, longline
- 150,000 lb daily and trip limit



# Summary of AIS State-Waters Pacific Cod Seasons

| Pacific Cod Season Opening Dates                                     | Pot Gear ≤60 Feet OAL   | Pot Gear ≤100 Feet OAL  | Pot Gear ≤125 Feet OAL             | Jig Gear ≤60 Feet OAL   | Longline Gear ≤58 Feet OAL  | Trawl Gear ≤60 Feet OAL   | Trawl Gear ≤100 Feet OAL           |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Adak Section</b><br>(state waters between 175° W and 178° W long) | January 1   | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time | January 1   | January 1   | January 1   | March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time |
| <b>All state waters west of 170° W long</b>                          | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | 4 days after closure of federal BSAI over 60 feet pot gear CV fishery | March 15 at 12:00 noon Alaska time |

# Proposal 1

## **Clarify openings, management time zones, landing requirements, and reporting requirements.**

- Open all waters of the AIS on March 15<sup>th</sup> for all gear types/vessel sizes if Federal >60 pot gear A season does not close by March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Use Alaska Time for fishery openings/closures
- All Pacific cod onboard at start of delivery must be delivered before a vessel can put more fish onboard for their next trip
- Vessels must report amount of gear operated and pounds of Pacific cod as directed by the department
- May not retrieve gear after the fishery closure until all Pacific cod onboard has been delivered

# Proposal 2

## Repeal current management plan and transition AIS to pot/jig fishery

### Current

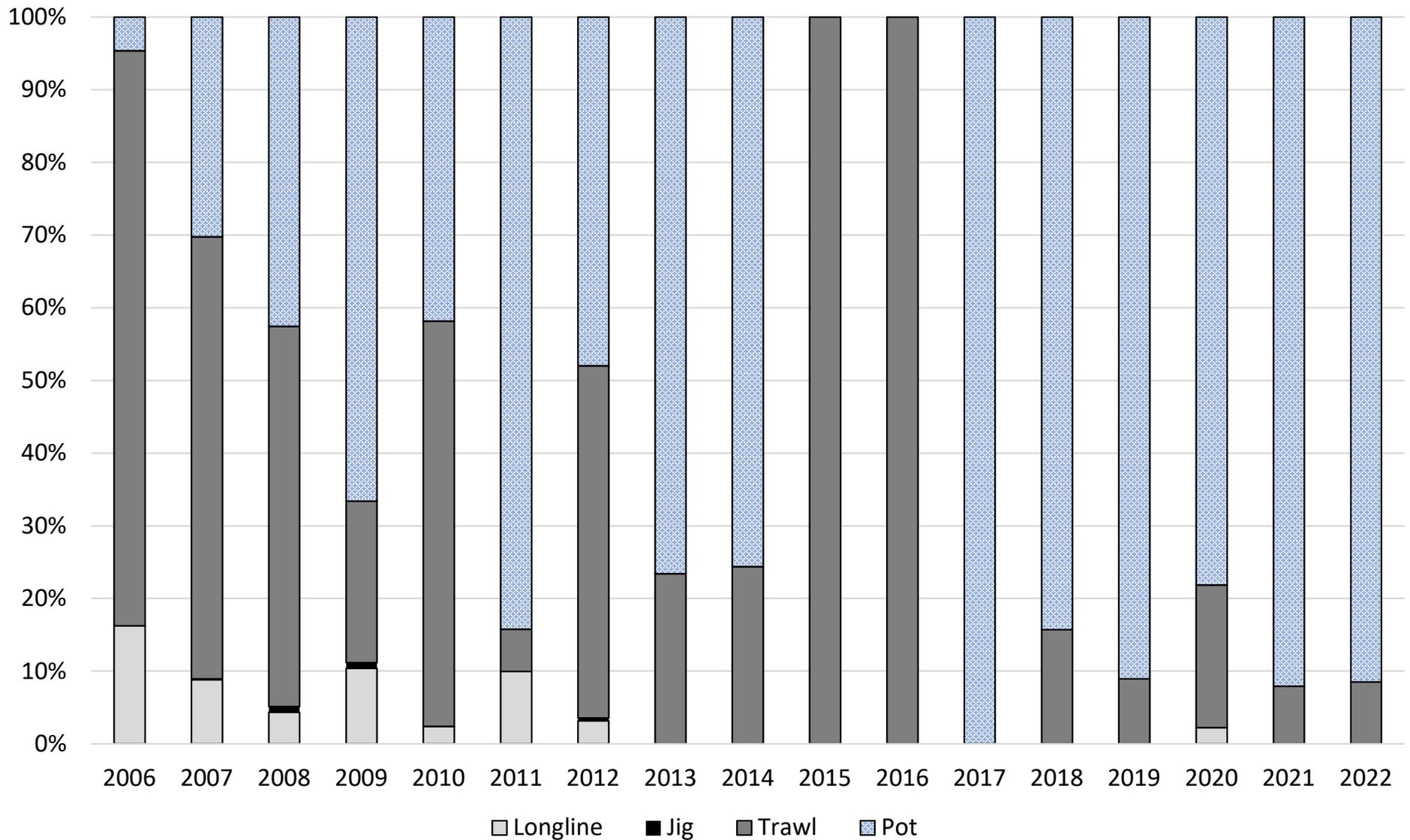
- Jan 1 opening – Adak Section
  - ≤60 ft trawl, pot, jig
  - ≤58 ft longline
- 4 days after federal >60 pot closure opening – all waters
  - ≤100 ft pot
  - ≤60 ft trawl, jig
  - ≤58 ft longline
- March 15 at noon opening – all waters
  - ≤125 ft pot
  - ≤ 100 ft trawl
- 150,000 lb daily and delivery limit, no pot gear limits
- GHL not allocated by gear type or vessel size

### Proposed

- All state-waters open January 1
- Only pot vessels ≤100 ft and jig gear ≤58 ft eligible for fishery
- 120 pot limit
- Limit pot vessels ≥59 from harvesting more than 25% of GHL



# Proposal 2 - Transition AIS to pot/jig fishery



Proportion of total harvest by gear type in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery, 2006–2022.

# Proposals 3 and 4

## Move >60 ft trawl vessel start date from March 15 to March 1

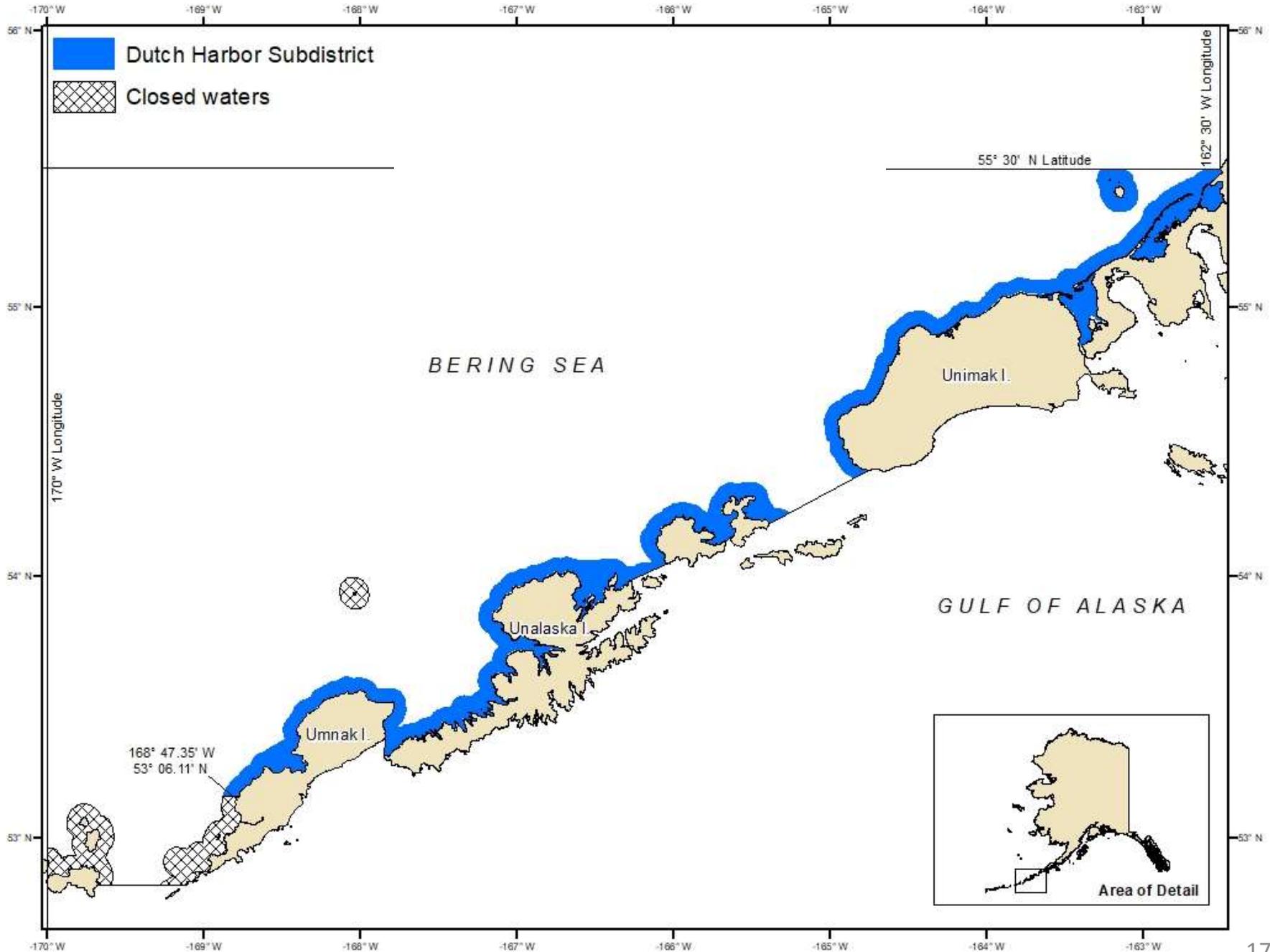
Aleutian Islands Subdistrict season length and dates for trawl vessels over 60 feet

| Year              | Season Dates |             | Season Duration |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
|                   | Opened       | Closed      |                 |
| 2016              | March-13     | December-31 | 294             |
| 2017              | February-27  | December-31 | 308             |
| 2018              | March-8      | March-23    | 16              |
| 2019              | March-15     | March-17    | 3               |
| 2020 <sup>a</sup> | March-15     | March-23    | 17              |
| 2021              | March-15     | April-9     | 26              |
| 2022              | March-15     | Still Open  | N/A             |

Note: Season duration is in number of days

<sup>a</sup> New regulations became effective mid season. Fishery was also open for large trawl vessels from February 20 to February 28.

# Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)



# Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)

## Pot Gear:

- Fishery established 2014
- GHL = 8 - 15% federal BS ABC
  - Increases 1% each year following achievement of GHL
  - 2022 GHL = 11%
- Opens access / exclusive registration area
- Opens after federal <60 HAL/Pot A-season
- Pot vessels  $\leq 58$  ft OAL
- 60 pot limit

## Jig Gear:

- Fishery established in 2019
- GHL = 100,000 lbs
- Nonexclusive registration
- Opens May 1
- Vessels  $\leq 58$  ft OAL
- 5 jig machine limit



# Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS)

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod effort, guideline harvest level (GHL), harvest, and exvessel value for pot gear, by year, 2014–2022.

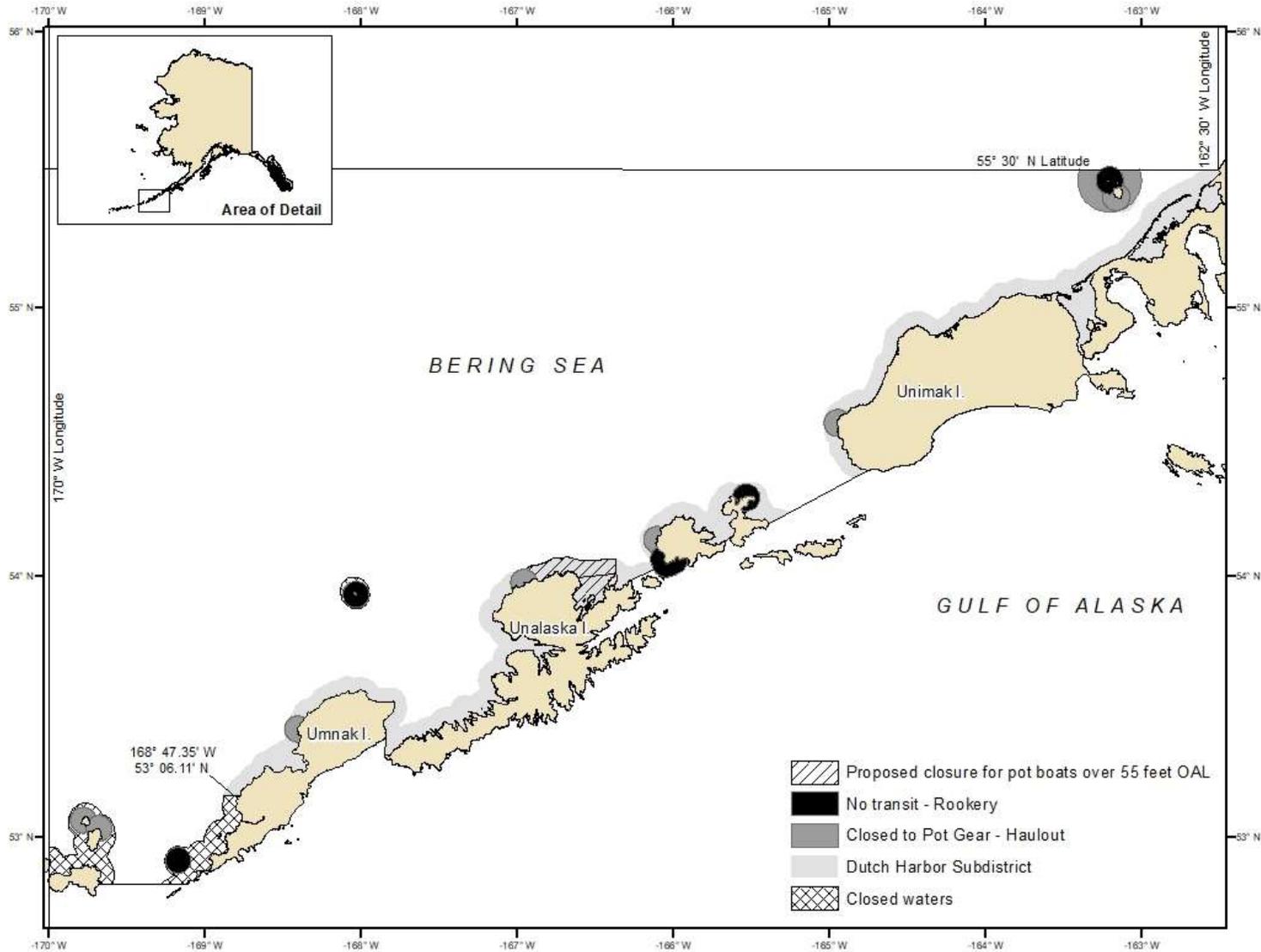
| Year              | Vessels | Landings | GHL (pounds) | Harvest (pounds) | Price per pound | Exvessel value |
|-------------------|---------|----------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2014              | 16      | 205      | 17,863,874   | 17,666,510       | \$0.28          | \$5,006,797    |
| 2015              | 14      | 183      | 18,029,404   | 17,636,103       | \$0.27          | \$4,763,751    |
| 2016              | 24      | 421      | 35,979,072   | 35,519,920       | \$0.28          | \$9,846,051    |
| 2017              | 24      | 349      | 33,721,562   | 33,247,414       | \$0.30          | \$10,067,240   |
| 2018              | 32      | 286      | 28,360,000   | 29,055,603       | \$0.41          | \$11,817,047   |
| 2019              | 37      | 431      | 31,922,600   | 32,345,033       | \$0.45          | \$14,182,650   |
| 2020              | 40      | 569      | 30,927,000   | 30,928,649       | \$0.43          | \$13,068,227   |
| 2021              | 29      | 412      | 27,292,000   | 27,585,848       | \$0.39          | \$10,328,249   |
| 2022 <sup>a</sup> | 29      | 543      | 37,196,000   | 34,864,687       | \$0.47          | \$16,079,482   |
| Avg.              | 27      | 378      | 29,032,390   | 28,761,085       | \$0.36          | \$10,573,277   |

Source: ADF&G fish ticket database.

<sup>a</sup> The 2022 DHS season ongoing. Data as of 7/6/2022.

# Proposal 5

## Limit pot vessels fishing around Unalaska Bay to 55 feet or less during the DHS fisheries



# Proposal 5 – Unalaska Bay pot vessel size

## Number of pot vessels by size fishing around Unalaska Bay

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| Year  | < 56 ft | ≥ 56 ft | Total Vessels | % Harvest in<br>665335 & 665403 |
|-------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 2014  | 1       | 3       | 4             | 31%                             |
| 2015  | 1       | 3       | 4             | 8%                              |
| 2016  | 0       | 4       | 4             | 2%                              |
| 2017  | 0       | 3       | 3             | 2%                              |
| 2018  | 0       | 1       | 1             | CF                              |
| 2019  | 0       | 2       | 2             | CF                              |
| 2020  | 0       | 5       | 5             | 4%                              |
| 2021  | 1       | 2       | 3             | 3%                              |
| 2022* | 0       | 3       | 3             | 3%                              |

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\* Fishery on-going

CF = confidential data

# Proposal 6

## Use abundance-based tier approach to set DHS GHL

| <b>Tier</b> | <b>Federal Bering Sea Pcod ABC (metric tons)</b> | <b>Federal Bering Sea Pcod ABC Biomass (millions of pounds)</b> | <b>Maximum Proportion Allocated to DHS state-waters GHL</b> |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| 1           | < 100,000 mt                                     | < 220.5   | 10%   |
| 2           | 100,000–124,999                                  | 220.5–275.6   | 11%   |
| 3           | 125,000–149,999                                  | 275.6–330.7   | 12%   |
| 4           | 150,000–153,845                                  | 330.7–339.2   | 13%   |
| 5           | ≥ 153,846  | ≥ 339.2   | 44,092,400-pound cap  |

| <b>ABC Tier Level Change</b> | <b>GHL Achieved</b> | <b>GHL Allocation Modifiers (step-downs)</b>  |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| ↑                            | Yes                 | Increase according to tier to a maximum of 13% or 44,092,400 pounds, whichever is less  |
| ↑                            | No                  | No increase according to tier; Decrease 1% based on fishery performance to a minimum of 10%   |
| ↓                            | Yes                 | Decrease according to tier  |
| ↓                            | No                  | Decrease according to tier  |
| –                            | Yes                 | No change from previous season(s)   |
| –                            | No                  | If abundance increases within a tier: Decrease 1% based on fishery performance to a minimum of 10%<br>If abundance decreases within a tier: No change from previous season(s) |

# Proposal 6 – DHS GHL

| Year    | Bering Sea      |                      | State-waters (GHL)<br>under current<br>regulations |                 | State-waters (GHL) under proposed<br>4-tier system |                            |                        |
|---------|-----------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
|         | ABC<br>(pounds) | ABC<br>(metric tons) | Percent<br>of ABC                                  | GHL<br>(pounds) | Percent<br>of ABC                                  | Calculated<br>GHL (pounds) | Actual GHL<br>(pounds) |
| 2014    | 562,173,000     | 255,000              | 3%   | 17,863,874      | 13%  | 73,082,490                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2015    | 562,173,000     | 255,000              | 3%   | 18,029,404      | 13%  | 73,082,490                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2016    | 562,173,000     | 255,000              | 6.4%   | 35,979,072      | 13%  | 73,082,490                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2017    | 526,899,400     | 239,000              | 6.4%   | 33,721,562      | 13%  | 68,496,922                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2018    | 443,124,600     | 201,000              | 6.4%   | 28,360,000      | 13%  | 57,606,198                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2019    | 399,032,600     | 181,000              | 8%   | 31,922,600      | 13%  | 51,874,238                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2020    | 343,637,616     | 155,873              | 9%   | 30,927,000      | 13%  | 44,672,890                 | 44,092,400             |
| 2021    | 272,940,503     | 123,805              | 10%  | 27,292,000      | 11%  | 30,023,455                 | 30,023,455             |
| 2022    | 338,148,162     | 153,383              | 11%  | 37,196,000      | 13%  | 43,959,261                 | 43,959,261             |
| Average | 445,589,098     | 202,118              | 7%   | 29,032,390      | 13%  | 57,320,048                 | 42,514,391             |

# Proposal 7

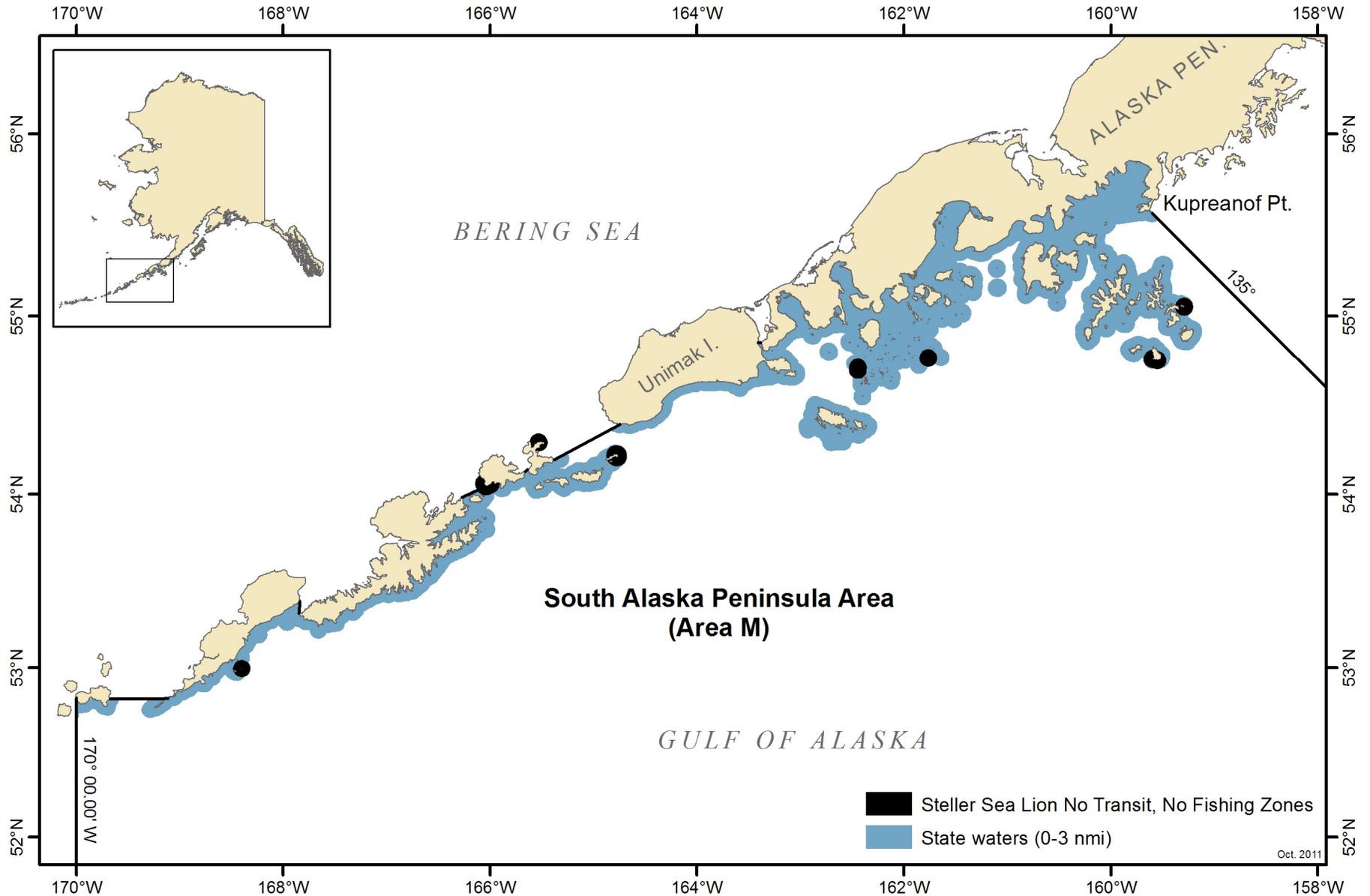
## Clarify gear marking and landing requirements for groundfish in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands

- Require vessels to land all catch within 72 hours of a fishery closure
- Require vessels to mark buoys with ADF&G vessel number
- Clarify when pots can be longlined



Photo: Alaska Seafood

# South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) Pacific Cod



# South Alaska Peninsula

- Fishery began in 1997
- Vessels  $\leq 58$  ft OAL
- Pot and jig gear only
- GHL = 30% federal WGOA ABC
  - Jig gear - 15% of GHL
  - Pot gear - 85% of GHL
- Open access/exclusive registration area
- Opens after federal/parallel fisheries close
- Gear limited to 60 pots or 5 jig machines



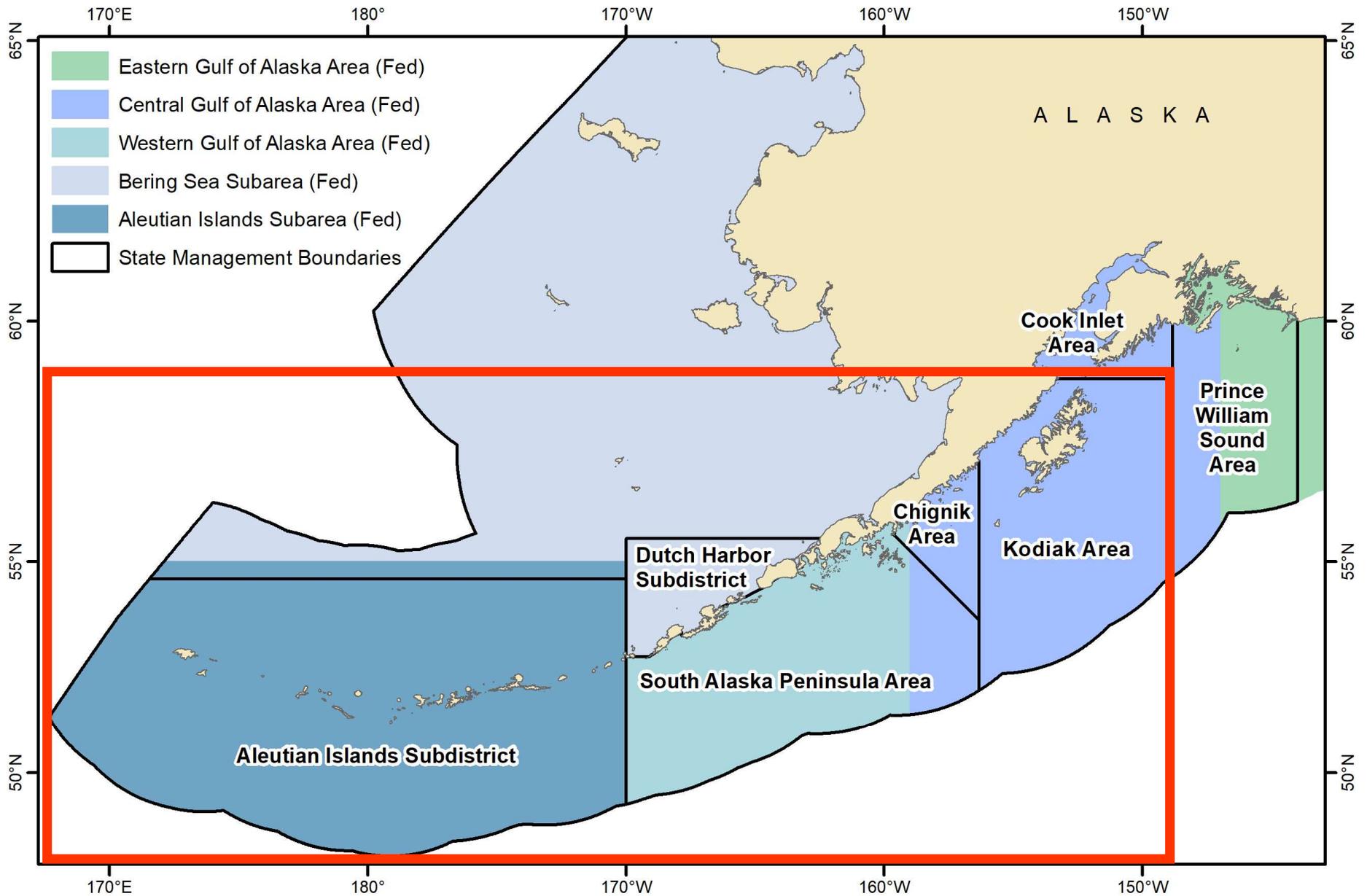
# Proposal 8

## **Clarify weather delay provision for the South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod fishery**

- Use National Weather Service marine forecast Area PKZ155 when determining weather delays



# Westward Region Jig Fisheries



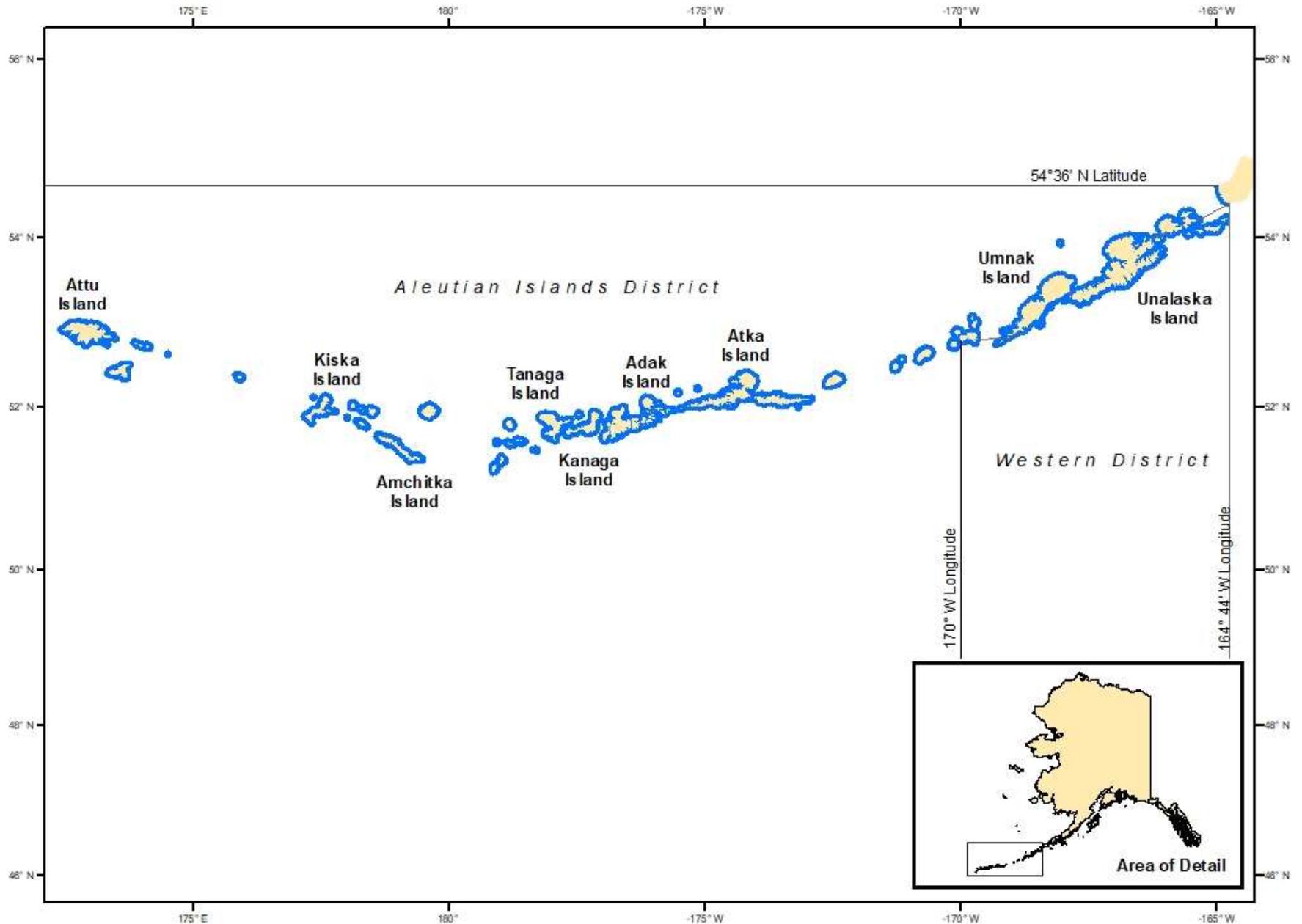
# Proposal 9

## Establish black rockfish and Pacific cod jig fisheries as nonexclusive and open all state-waters Pacific cod fisheries on January 1

| Area                         | Vessel count | Number of landings | Jig GHL allocation | Jig GHL allocation (lb) | Harvest (lb) | Percent of jig GHL allocation harvested |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Kodiak                       | 28           | 118                | 50%                | 2,180,315               | 585,915      | 26.9%                                   |
| Chignik                      | <1           | 1                  | 10%                | 305,244                 | CF           | CF                                      |
| South Alaska Peninsula       | 16           | 82                 | 15%                | 1,254,062               | 363,344      | 29.0%                                   |
| Dutch Harbor Subdistrict     | 1            | 4                  | Fixed              | 100,000                 | CF           | CF                                      |
| Aleutian Islands Subdistrict | 0            | 0                  | None               | NA                      | 0            | 0.0%                                    |

| Area                         | Registration type | Season opening date          | GHL rollover date            | Nonexclusive designation date |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kodiak                       | Exclusive         | January 1                    | April 1 and after CGOA pot B | June 10                       |
| Chignik                      | Superexclusive    | March 15                     | August 15                    | None                          |
| South Alaska Peninsula       | Exclusive         | After WGOA jig A or March 15 | After WGOA pot B             | October 30                    |
| Dutch Harbor Subdistrict     | Nonexclusive      | May 1                        | None                         | NA                            |
| Aleutian Islands Subdistrict | Exclusive         | January 1                    | NA                           | After DHS pot                 |

# Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery



# Aleutian Islands Sablefish Fishery

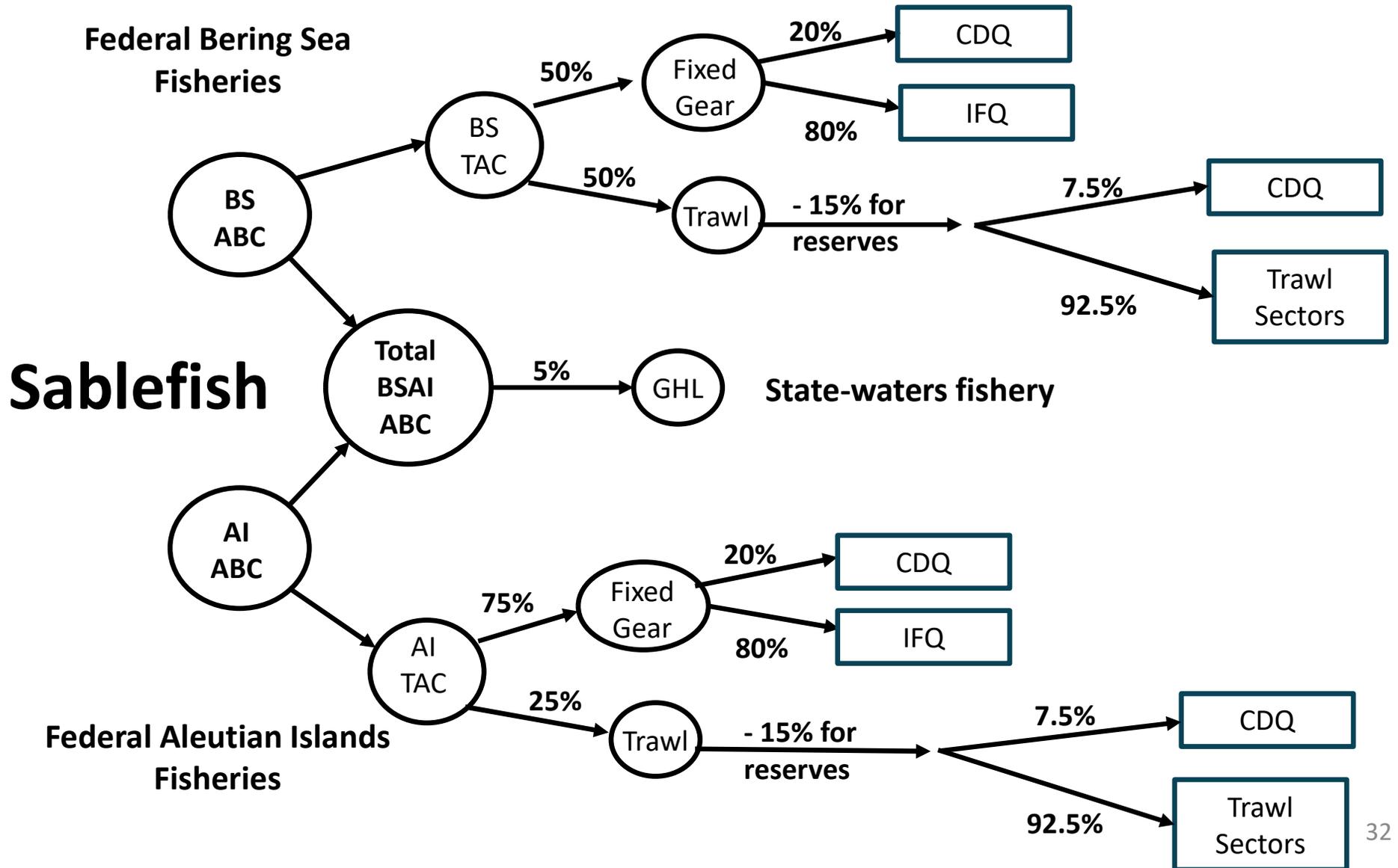


Photo: J. Trosvig

- Fishery began 1995
- GHL = ~5% of combined federal BSAI ABC
  - Not allocated between gear types
  - GHL achieved from 1996 to 2002 and then not achieved again until 2022 season
- Legal gear
  - Pots, jig, longline, hand troll
- Open concurrently with federal IFQ season
- All vessels fishing within 3nmi, including those with IFQ/CDQ, must register for the state-waters fishery

# Proposal 10

**Set GHL at 5% of the combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands sablefish ABCs**



# Proposal 11

## **Establish guiding principles for groundfish fishery regulations**

- No policy statement or defined objectives for state-managed groundfish fisheries
- Provide transparency and guidance when deliberating changes to groundfish fishery regulations
- Aid sustainability certification for state-managed groundfish fisheries



# Questions?